

**In Sports: Southwood softball takes a step forward for the future. Page A10**

# Wabash Plain Dealer

\$3

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Tomorrow's weather

87 | 67



**Pulse  
of Wabash**

## Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned a tailgate food distribution for 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 22 and July 27 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15; and at noon Wednesday, July 13 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester. For more information, visit [www.curehunger.org](http://www.curehunger.org), [classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182](http://classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182) or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

## Honeywell Center hosting free outdoor concerts in June

The Summer Plaza Music Series featuring free musical performances on the Honeywell Center's outdoor Carpenter Plaza has returned. Guests are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and an appetite, as the Honeywell Plaza Grille will be offering grilled favorites, drinks and snacks. The entertainment lineup includes Tuxedo Junction playing big band, jazz, standards, and more from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 23; and Mississinewa Valley Band performing patriotic pops at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 30. For more information, visit [www.honeywellarts.org](http://www.honeywellarts.org).

## Shoe Sensation celebrates 'perfect fit' with a grand opening in Wabash

Grow Wabash County invites the community to join us in celebrating the grand opening, of Shoe Sensation, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 9 a.m. Friday, June 24, at their storefront at 1443 N. Cass St., #1400. To celebrate their grand opening in Wabash, Shoe Sensation customers that shop there during their opening weekend will be able to enter to win free shoes for an entire year or free shoes for their entire family. Also, on Saturday, June 25, the first 100 customers will receive a mystery card with a discount offer ranging from \$5 to \$100 off of their purchase.

See **PULSE**, page A8

## Inside

Classified, A8 Sports, A10  
Comics, A6 Viewpoint, A7  
Obituaries, A3 Weather, A2



6 94653 00172 1

# ISDH: COVID-19 vaccines now available for children 6 months to 5 years old

Moderna and Pfizer doses for these ages received FDA, CDC authorization last week

By **ROB BURGESS**

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

After receiving approval at the federal level just days ago, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) announced Tuesday, June 21 that COVID-19 vaccines are

now available for children ages 6 months to 5 years old.

The vaccines are now available at some Indiana providers, expanding the population eligible to be protected against the disease.

"Shipments will continue to arrive at participating lo-

cations this week," stated the ISDH.

The ISDH has updated its map at [www.ourshot.in.gov](http://www.ourshot.in.gov) to show sites that have indicated they will offer the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for this age group. Both vaccines received authorization from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) last

week. Initial sites will include private healthcare providers, local health departments and some hospitals and pharmacies.

Vaccines are currently available on a walk-in basis at most locations, or parents can contact their child's healthcare provider to schedule an appointment if the provider is offering the vaccine.

"Due to staggered vaccine delivery dates, parents are encouraged to contact the provider before arriving to ensure the age-appropriate dose is available," stated the ISDH. "The ISDH is working to update its online registration system so that appointments for this age group can be made ... as

See **VACCINES**, page A4



Provided photo

Volunteer artists Becky and Mike Kock paint the "Mariposas" mural in the brick alleyway adjacent to the museum in the summer of 2021.

## NMCH to present 'Art on the Bricks'

First event in new series set to run from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, June 23

STAFF REPORT

The North Manchester Center for History (NMCH) has announced the first "Art on the Bricks" event from 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday, June 23 at 122 E. Main St., North Manchester, according to director Laura Rager.

"Visitors will enjoy live entertainment and an art exhibit featuring artists from northeast Indiana. Partnering with the Art Bank Studio, we have created an outdoor venue with lighting, colorful sails and our beautiful mariposas. Funding for this event has been provided by Visit Wabash County and Beacon Credit Union," said Rager. "Art vendors will have a variety of items including jewelry, pottery, sculpture and fine art. Our musician, Brenda Eberly Horein, is a North Manchester native that has performed live for

several years. Currently, she is a guest artist at the Oliver Mansion in South Bend."

Rager said "Art on the Bricks" is a new series created by the NMCH "to encourage visitors to enjoy the outdoors via our 1900s brick-paved alleyway."

"In 1903, the town board upgraded our downtown streets from dirt to brick acquired from Canton, Ohio," said Rager. "Our unique alleyway is one of the few places where the original brick remains exposed. The museum plans to host a variety of events in this space including an October presentation by Dr. Jay Perry exploring the history of prohibition in Indiana. This will coincide with a traveling exhibit from the Indiana Historical Society, 'Hoosiers and Their Hooch.'"

See **ART**, page A4



Provided photo

In 1903, the town board upgraded our downtown streets from dirt to brick acquired from Canton, Ohio.

## Grow Wabash County to co-host the 4th annual Japan-Northeast Indiana Summit

This year's event will be held in person after being held virtually last time

By **ROB BURGESS**

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Grow Wabash County (GWC) will once again be partnering with the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership and the Japanese American Society of Indiana (JASI) to host the 4th annual Japan-Northeast Indiana Summit.

This year's summit will be hosted from 9 a.m. to

1 p.m. at Eagles Theatre, 106 W. Market St., said GWC project manager for marketing and events Chelsea Boulrisse.

Admission to this summit is free of charge, but registration is required as space is limited.

"The Japan-Northeast Indiana Summit has been an essential aspect in helping northeast Indiana build a strong and mutually beneficial business relationship with Japan and Japanese-based companies," said Boulrisse.

Boulrisse said the primary focus of this year's summit will be the predicted trends

of electric vehicles and how these trends will inform future relations between northeast Indiana and Japan.

"Speakers will also discuss the increasing need for a skilled workforce, the understanding of American and Japanese management styles as well as how northeast Indiana can continue to support Japanese-owned companies in the region," said Boulrisse.

Boulrisse said Consul-General Hiroshi Tajima, will also attend the summit to present remarks, but a full list of speakers and a detailed agenda will

be announced in early July ahead of the event.

"Strong international bonds with companies and communities are a vital part of promoting business growth and development in Wabash County and northeast Indiana," said GWC president and CEO Keith Gillenwater. "We are excited to be working with JASI and the Northeast Indiana Regional Partnership to host this year's summit. We are even more excited to be hosting this event in the historic Eagles Theatre right in downtown Wabash

See **SUMMIT**, page A4

## County ranks seventh in the state in per-veteran benefits

Spending increases to over \$23M, despite the local veteran population slowly decreasing

By **ROB BURGESS**

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Wabash County remains one of the top counties in the state of Indiana in terms of benefits received among its veteran population, according to the latest Veterans Administration data.

While Wabash County ranks 48th out of 92 counties in size based on the number of veterans, it remains at a "very respectable" seventh overall for benefits received on a per veteran basis, said Wabash County veterans service officer Samuel Daugherty, on Monday, June 20.

"This places Wabash County firmly among the top few counties in our state for receiving veteran-related assistance through the Veterans Administration," said Daugherty. "The upward progressive trend for Wabash County has maintained momentum."

See **VETERANS**, page A4

## Children's parade planned to celebrate Independence Day

Participants will make their way down Hill Street on the morning of July 2

By **ROB BURGESS**

Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Several organizations along Hill Street in downtown Wabash are planning to celebrate the Independence Day holiday with a children's parade, said Babe of Wabash County executive director Katey Till.

Till said the parade lineup will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 2 in the parking lot of Wabash County CASA, 10 W. Hill St. The parade will then start at 10:30 a.m. The route will then travel down Hill Street, starting at Wabash Street and ending at Cass Street.

"Families with children are welcome to dress up in red, white and blue, decorate strollers and wagons or walk in the parade waving flags," said Till.

Till said no registration is

See **PARADE**, page A4



IN BRIEF

Local students graduate from Goshen College

Goshen College recently recognized 214 graduates, including several local students, as a part of the class of 2022 during its commencement ceremony on May 1, according to communications and marketing manager Hannah Scott-Carter.

This was the 124th Goshen College Commencement Ceremony and the first in-person ceremony with friends and family in two years.

Local students, both of North Manchester, who graduated included: Benjamin David Reichenbach, who graduated with a bachelor's degree with a molecular biology and biochemistry major; Elliot Sklar, who graduated with a bachelor's degree with a double major in American Sign Language and secondary education; and Madison A. Sorg, who graduated

with a bachelor's degree with an environmental and marine science major.

Justin Lasser, of North Manchester, graduates from the University of the Cumberlands

Justin Lasser, of North Manchester, graduated from the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky, according to a press release. Lasser completed their master of arts in clinical mental health counseling.

The University of the Cumberlands held commencement ceremonies recently to celebrate its newest graduates. Participants in this year's commencement ceremonies included graduates from 49 states and territories and the countries of Canada, India, Brazil, Spain, New Zealand, and Italy, among others. A total of 2,068 graduates received their degrees from Cumberlands that weekend.

NMHS, Shepherd's Center sponsoring a September trip to southern Indiana

STAFF REPORT

The North Manchester Historical Society (NMHS) and Shepherd's Center are sponsoring a trip from Sept. 6 to 8 to southern Indiana, according to NMHS tour coordinator Bernie Ferringer.

Ferringer said they will visit Indiana Caverns, Zimmerman Art Glass Demonstration, Turtle Run Winery,

Derby Dinner Playhouse and Show, Santa Claus Museum and Abe Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, "with free time and shopping in Nashville on the way home."






Ferringer said several spots are remaining for this trip. The deadline for final payment is July 20.

The trip includes two-nights lodging, two breakfasts, one lunch, two din-

ners and all tips and taxes. Luggage handling and motorcoach transportation is also included. The cost is \$499 per person for double occupancy and \$615 for single occupancy.





For more information, write to 314 Sunset Dr. North Manchester, IN. 46962; email [bernievicki@gmail.com](mailto:bernievicki@gmail.com) or call 260 982-8734.

### 5-Day Weather Summary

 <b>Wednesday</b> Scattered T-storms 93 / 65	 <b>Thursday</b> Sunny 87 / 64	 <b>Friday</b> Partly Cloudy 89 / 67	 <b>Saturday</b> Partly Cloudy 92 / 72	 <b>Sunday</b> Scattered T-storms 88 / 64
---	--	--	--	---

#### Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 9:14 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 6:16 a.m.

 New 6/28	 First 7/6	 Full 7/13	 Last 7/20
--	--	---	---

#### Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms, high of 93°, humidity of 51%. West wind 6 to 11 mph. The heat index for today could reach up to 96°. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with a 40% chance of showers, overnight low of 65°. Southeast wind 6 to 11 mph.

Eagles Theatre to present free movie Mondays

STAFF REPORT

Honeywell Arts & Entertainment will offer free movies at the Eagles Theatre every Monday from July 11 through Aug. 8, according to digital marketing specialist Kaitlynn Still.

Showings will take place at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the main Eagles Theatre.

Sensory-friendly showings will be also be offered at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the Ferguson Theatre, and feature lower audio and brighter lighting for safe and com-

fortable movement and enjoyment of the movie.

The movie lineup includes: Monday, July 11 – "The Mitchells vs. The Machines" Monday, July 18 – "Tom & Jerry" Monday, July 25 – "Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway" Monday, Aug. 1 – "Scoob!" Monday, Aug. 8 – "Spirit Untamed"

Free Movie Mondays is made possible in part by these supporters: Lead sponsors: Chittick Insurance, City of Wabash, Family Optometry, Ford Meter Box,

Gaunt & Son Asphalt, Inc., Gorman & Bunch Orthodontics and Wabash Veterinary Hospital. Associate sponsors: Beacon Credit Union, Downs Tandy & Petruniw, P.C., Modoc's Market, Playhouse Studio of Dance and Wabash Music. Supporter: Benson & Son LLC.

Full concession offerings will be available during the free movies including pizza, hot dogs, nachos, mozzarella sticks, pretzels, slushies, candy, popcorn and more.

For more information, visit [honeywellarts.org](http://honeywellarts.org).

Indiana gas tax increases while state eyes inflation relief

By ARLEIGH RODGERS  
Associated Press/Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana will see another in-

crease in state gasoline taxes starting July 1 amid promises of inflation relief – including a proposal to issue direct payments to Indiana residents later this

month.

The state's residents will pay 62 cents per gallon in taxes on gasoline, the state Department of Revenue announced Monday – another jump from June's record-high 56 cents per gallon. Fuel costs were expected to continue to rise in July, elevated largely because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The gas tax increase emerged alongside calls from Indiana Democrats since March to suspend the tax to aid residents reeling from the worst inflation in 40 years.

But Republicans say the gas tax should remain in

place to fund the state's highway construction program and argue that even if the state gas tax was suspended, there is no guarantee that pump prices would be cut by the full amount. They instead backed a plan gradually lowering Indiana's individual income tax rate over the next seven years.

Indiana has two taxes on gasoline – a 7 percent sales tax and a tax directed to infrastructure projects.

The sales tax is calculated monthly and will be set at 29.1 cents for July – up 5.1 cents for June and nearly triple the rate from early 2021.

The road projects tax that's currently 32 cents a gallon is set to go up by 1 cent in July under an automatic increase for inflation allowed under the 2017 plan pushed by Republicans that boosted the tax from 18 cents to 28 cents.

The state's average price per gallon of regular gasoline was about \$5.13 on Monday, above the national average of \$4.98, according to AAA.

President Joe Biden said Monday that he will decide by the end of the week whether he would support suspending the federal gas tax of 18.4 cents a gallon.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb proposed an inflation relief plan this month that would distribute payments of \$225 to residents under the state's automatic taxpayer refund law. This builds on the initial \$125 payments taxpayers received last month under the same policy.

Eligible residents would receive a combined total of about \$350 in payments, with a married couple filing jointly receiving about \$700, Holcomb said.

Holcomb said he would call for a special legislative session before the end of June so legislators can enact this proposal.

## J&J CONSTRUCTION

AMISH QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP

# 419-771-2806

DRIVER NICK   OWNER: JOE S. SCHWARTZ

### \*FREE ESTIMATES\*


WE SPECIALIZE IN...

- ROOFING
- POLE BUILDINGS
- HOUSING
- DECKS
- SIDING
- STICK FRAME CONSTRUCTION



# IRA & 401(k) Rollovers


## Take advantage of a free portfolio review today.



**Paul Markiewicz**  
Registered Principal

Whether retiring or retired, changing jobs, moving or looking for higher interest rates...

*LaSalle St. Securities can help!*



16 N. Miami St., Peru  
765-473-7211

Member FINRA and SIPC

Biden signs off on hefty pay raise for federal firefighters

By AAMER MADHANI  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden has signed off on giving federal wildland firefighters a hefty raise for the next two fiscal years, a move that affects more than 16,000 firefighters and comes as much of the West braces for a difficult wildfire season.

Pay raises for the federal firefighters had been included in last year's \$1 trillion infrastructure bill, but they had been held up as federal agencies studied recruitment and retention data to decide where to deliver them.

The White House said the move announced Tuesday is intended to set "federal agencies on a path to continue working with stakeholders towards an updated, competitive, and equitable pay structure, along with a support system that will address the many

challenges that have plagued our wildland firefighter workforce for decades."


The legislation stipulated that the \$600 million in the infrastructure bill to increase pay for wildland firefighters should go to all those firefighters provided that they are "located within a specified geographic area in which it is difficult to recruit or retain a federal wildland firefighter."

The Biden administration in the end decided on a raise for all the federal wildland firefighters over the next two years, according to a senior administration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity ahead of the formal announcement. The official said the infrastructure bill offered enough money to provide the raises but the administration was looking to work with Congress to provide a long-term fix on the firefighters' pay.

"I will do everything in my power, including working with Congress to secure long-term funding, to make sure these heroes keep earning the paychecks – and dignity – they deserve," Biden said in a statement.

The infrastructure law also authorized agencies to increase the base salary of federal wildland firefighters by \$20,000 per year or 50 percent of their current base salary, whichever is lower, through 2023. The firefighters will receive back pay for the raises, dating to October 2021.

The National Federation of Federal Employees union, which represents a majority of federal wildland firefighters, had been urging the Biden administration to interpret the statute as broadly as possible, as firefighters across the country were struggling to make ends meet.



## Wabash Plain Dealer

VOL. 164 NO. 49

99 W. Canal St., Wabash, Ind. 46992

### Circulation

- Customer Service 260-563-2131
- Telephone Hours: Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Delivery: Your newspaper is delivered by the USPS and will arrive with your daily mail.
- Missed your paper? We sincerely hope not, but if you did please contact your local post office. To verify that your account is active, call us at 260-563-2131.
- Home delivery subscription rates: 13 weeks, \$59.50. EZ-Pay, monthly, \$18.65.

Other payment options available

by calling Subscriber Services at 260-563-2131.

POSTMASTER: Send address change to Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

- There will be a \$10 early termination fee to cancel an existing subscription prior to expiration date.

### Advertising

- 260-563-2131 (after hours, press 5 for advertising)
- Classified: [classifieds@wabashplainedeal.com](mailto:classifieds@wabashplainedeal.com)
- Legals: [legals@wabashplainedeal.com](mailto:legals@wabashplainedeal.com)
- Retail: [cbrown@wabashplainedeal.com](mailto:cbrown@wabashplainedeal.com)

### Talk to us

**Kelly Miller**, Publisher and Advertising Director  
[kmiller@wabashplainedeal.com](mailto:kmiller@wabashplainedeal.com)

**Jared Keever**, Executive Editor  
[jkeever@pmginnmi.com](mailto:jkeever@pmginnmi.com)

**Rob Burgess**, Managing Editor  
[rburgess@wabashplainedeal.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplainedeal.com)

**Main number:** 260-563-2131

**Newsroom**  
260-563-2131  
[news@wabashplainedeal.com](mailto:news@wabashplainedeal.com)

**Website**  
[www.wabashplainedeal.com](http://www.wabashplainedeal.com)

**Fax:** 260-563-0816

---

USPS 663-940

Wabash Plain Dealer  
established September 1858

Published Wednesdays and Saturdays (except on postal holidays) by Paxton Media Group, by the Wabash Plain Dealer, 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992. Periodical postage paid at Wabash, Ind.

No portion of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the General Sales Manager of the Wabash Plain Dealer.



# Pools close, go without lifeguards amid labor shortage

By **ARLEIGH RODGERS**  
and **CLAIRE SAVAGE**  
Associated Press/Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS — Manager Ashley Ford strode the perimeter of one of Indianapolis’ five open swimming pools, monitoring kids as they jumped off a diving board or careened into the water from a curved slide. Four lifeguards, whistles at the ready, watched from their tall chairs stationed around the water.

With a dozen of the city’s pools shuttered due to a lifeguard shortage, families sometimes line up more than an hour before the one at Frederick Douglass Park opens, Ford said. Many days, it reaches capacity.

A national lifeguard shortage exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted communities such as Indianapolis to cut back on pools and hours. In other spots around the United States, swimming areas go without attendants.

That’s left some Americans with fewer or riskier options, even as a significant part of the nation endures a second heat wave in as many weeks. Public health experts say the risk of drowning decreases significantly when lifeguards are present.

“That’s my biggest thing, is making everybody safe,” Ford said.

The American Lifeguard Association estimates the shortage impacts one-third of U.S. pools. Bernard J. Fisher II, director of health and safety at the association, expects that to grow to half of all pools by August, when many teenage lifeguards return to school.

“It is a disaster,” Fisher said.

Summer shortages aren’t unusual, but U.S. pools are also dealing with the fallout from earlier in the pandemic, when they closed and lifeguard certification stopped, Fisher said. Starting pay lags behind many other jobs, though some cities are ramping up incentives.

Indy Parks and Recreation has 100 lifeguards on staff this year when normally it would have double that, said Ford, who was worked for the agency for 20 years. Even as lifeguards from closed neighboring pools bulk up the open facilities, pools in Indianapolis must still close for an hourlong lunch and cleaning break each day.

When a local pool is not open, young people may go swimming in places without lifeguards, Fisher said. That can result in more drownings, which disproportionately affect people of color. In the U.S., Black people under 29 are 1.5 times more likely to drown compared with white Americans of the same age, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

About 330,000 people enroll the American Red Cross’ lifeguarding course annually. That figure shrank, as many pools shuttered due to the pandemic, but is now rising, Jenelle Eli, senior director of media relations for

the American Red Cross said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Indy Parks requires its lifeguards to pass a course in which they swim 100 yards, tread water for a minute without using their hands and retrieve a 10-pound object from the bottom of a pool. Starting pay is \$15 per hour, up from \$13 an hour earlier this year. Those who stay through the season will receive a \$100 retention bonus, Boyd said.

“I’ve tried to get some of my friends that want to get a summer job and want to have money in their pockets,” said second-year lifeguard Donald Harris, 17. “They’ve just said lifeguarding isn’t for them.”

At Indiana’s state parks, lifeguards are paid \$11 an hour. All of the state’s 37 facilities remain open, but some operate on limited hours, said Terry Coleman, director of the Division of Indiana State Parks. Many Indiana state parks additionally have shallow swimming areas without lifeguards, Coleman said.

“We’re looking at potential incentives for maybe the 2023 recreation season, but nothing in stone yet,” he said.

In Maine, several state parks started the season without lifeguards, and visitors are informed at the park entrance when no lifeguard is on duty, said Jim Britt, spokesperson for the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. The state pays lifeguards about \$16 an hour.

“It’s a concern,” Britt said. “There’s no two ways about it. We want lifeguards to be there and to be on duty.”

Chicago, which boasts one of the nation’s largest aquatic programs — 77 public pools and 22 beaches that serve a population of nearly 2.75 million — pushed opening day for pools back to July 5 from June 24.

“Chicago families rely on our park programs during the summer, so we are not giving up,” Chicago Park District Superintendent Rosa Escareño said in a news release.

Escareño attributed the scarcity in part to “mass resignation” — referring to post-pandemic labor shortages.

Chicago Park District pays \$15.88 hourly and is now offering bonuses of \$600, up from \$500 in May, to new hires who stay through the summer. It also relaxed residency requirements, meaning applicants do not have to live in the city.

One cause for applicant hesitation unrelated to the pandemic may be a lifeguard sexual abuse scandal that rocked Chicago Park District last year.

Escareño said the organization has since strengthened its accountability and reporting systems.

“I think right now, the most important thing is to ensure that we open safely, and that we place the greatest priority on safety, not just the safety of our residents, but also the safety of our employees,” she said.



Jacquelyn Martin / AP

Rusty Bowers, Arizona state House Speaker, from left, Brad Raffensperger, Georgia Secretary of State, and Gabe Sterling, Georgia Deputy Secretary of State, are sworn in to testify as the House select committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol continues to reveal its findings of a year-long investigation at the Capitol in Washington Tuesday.

## 1/6 panel: Local ‘heroes’ rebuffed Trump, then faced threats

By **LISA MASCARO**  
and **FARNOUSH AMIRI**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House 1/6 committee heard chilling, tearful testimony Tuesday that Donald Trump’s relentless pressure to overturn the 2020 presidential election provoked widespread threats to the “backbone of our democracy — election workers and local officials who fended off the defeated president’s demands despite personal risks.

The panel investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack at the U.S. Capitol focused on Trump’s efforts to undo Joe Biden’s victory in a most local way — by repeatedly leaning on public officials in key battleground states with shocking proposals to reject ballots outright or to submit alternative electors for the final tally in Congress.

The high-profile pressure, described as potentially illegal, was fueled by the president’s false claims of voter fraud — which, the panel says, spread dangerously in the states and ultimately led directly to the deadly insurrection at the Capitol.

“A handful of election officials in several key states stood between Donald Trump and the upending of American democracy,” Chairman Bennie Thompson said, praising them as heroes and the “backbone of our democracy.”

The hearing was punctuated throughout with accounts of the personal attacks faced by state and local officials.

Arizona Republican House Speaker Rusty Bowers said he was subjected to a public smear campaign, including relentless bullhorn protests at his home and a pistol-wielding man taunting his family and neighbors.

Officials in Michigan, Pennsylvania and other states told similar stories of having their cellphone numbers and home addresses spread publicly after they refused Trump’s demands.

At one gripping moment, two Georgia election work-

ers, a mother and daughter, testified that they lived in fear of saying their names aloud after Trump wrongly accused them of voter fraud.

“There were a lot of threats wishing death upon me,” said Wandrea ArShaye “Shaye” Moss, a former state election worker.

The public hearing, the fourth by the panel this month, stemmed from its yearlong investigation into Trump’s unprecedented attempt to remain in power, a sprawling scheme that the chairman of the Jan. 6 committee has likened to an “attempted coup.” The panel insisted that Trump’s lies over the election threaten democracy to this day, as local officials face ongoing threats and challengers try to take over their jobs.

The committee’s vice chair, Republican Rep. Liz Cheney, implored Americans to pay attention to the evidence being presented, declaring, “We cannot let America become a nation of conspiracy theories and thug violence.”

One key witness was Republican Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, who testified about Trump’s phone call asking him to “find 11,780” votes that could flip his state to prevent Biden’s election victory.

While the committee cannot charge Trump with any crimes, the Justice Department is watching the panel’s work closely.

Trump defended himself on social media, describing his phone call to Raffensperger as “perfect,” similar to the way he described the 2020 call with Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy that resulted in his first impeachment.

The public testimony from Raffensperger came weeks after he appeared before a special grand jury in Georgia investigating whether Trump and others illegally tried to intervene in the state’s 2020 election. Raffensperger beat a Trump-backed challenger in last month’s primary election.

He and Gabe Sterling, his

chief operations officer, detailed their painstaking efforts to count the Georgia vote, going down the “rabbit hole,” he said, investigating one false claim after another of fraud. After a hand recount of 5 million ballots, Biden’s victory was unchanged.

“The numbers don’t lie,” said Raffensperger, who said that some 28,000 Georgia voters simply bypassed the presidential race but voted down-ballot for others. “At the end of the day, President Trump came up short.”

Bowers, the Arizona House speaker who also appeared in person, walked through what started with a Trump phone call on a Sunday after he returned from church. The defeated president laid out a proposal to have the state replace its electors for Biden with others favoring Trump.

“I said, ‘Look, you’re asking me to do something that is counter to my oath,’” Bowers testified.

Bowers insisted on seeing Trump’s evidence of voter fraud, which he said Trump’s team never produced beyond vague allegations. He recalled Trump lawyer Rudy Giuliani later told him, “We’ve got lots of theories, we just don’t have the evidence.”

Trump wanted Bowers to hold a hearing at the state Capitol, but the Republican leader said there was already a “circus” atmosphere over the election. The panel showed video footage of protesters at the Arizona statehouse including a key figure, the horned hat-wearing Jacob Chansley, who was later arrested at the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot.

Trump nevertheless pressed the Arizona official, including in a follow-up call, suggesting he expected a better response from a fellow Republican.

But Bowers said that because of his faith, including a belief the U.S. Constitution is divinely inspired, what the president was asking him to do was “foreign to my very being.”

Bowers called Trump’s ef-

fort a “tragic parody.”

With in-person testimony, Moss, who had worked for Georgia’s Fulton County elections department since 2012, and her mother, Ruby Freeman, a temporary election worker who spoke earlier to the panel, gripped the audience with their accounts of the fallout from the smear campaign by Trump and Giuliani.

“Do you know how it feels to have the president of the United States target you?” Freeman testified. “The president of the United States is supposed to represent every American, not to target one. But he targeted me.”

The select committee outlined Trump’s elaborate “fake electors” scheme that sought to have representatives in as many as seven battlegrounds — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Nevada and New Mexico — state that he, not Biden, had won their states.

Several Republicans in Congress latched onto the scheme in the run-up to Jan. 6.

The committee displayed a text message from an aide to Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., to an aide for Vice President Mike Pence the morning of Jan. 6 saying Johnson wanted to give Pence an “alternate slate of electors for MI and WI.”

“Do not give that to him,” Pence aide Chris Hodgson replied. And Johnson didn’t, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

Conservative law professor John Eastman, a lawyer for Trump, pushed the fake electors in the weeks after the election. The idea was to set up a challenge to Biden’s win when Congress met on Jan. 6 with Pence presiding in what is typically a ceremonial role to certify the election. Trump sent thousands of his supporters to the Capitol to “fight like hell,” as he pressured Pence to reject the ballots. The effort ultimately collapsed amid the deadly riot, as Pence refused Trump’s demands that he reject the electors.

## Fed’s Powell facing rising criticism for inflation missteps

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell won praise for his deft leadership during the maelstrom of the pandemic recession. As threats to the U.S. economy have mounted, though, Powell has increasingly struck Fed watchers as much less sure-footed.

Inflation has proved higher and far more persistent than he or the Fed’s staff economists had foreseen. And at a policy meeting last week, Powell announced an unusual last-minute switch to a bigger interest rate hike than he had previously signaled — and then followed with a news conference that many economists described as muddled and inconsistent.

It’s been a sharp turnaround for Powell, who is widely credited with preventing what could have been a far worse economic crisis during the pandemic and who last month won an easy bipartisan Senate confirmation for a second four-year term.

Now, as he confronts chronically high inflation, plunging financial markets and the growing threat of a recession, Powell is facing questions — and criticism — surrounding his stewardship of the Fed at a time when its challenges are multiplying.

Thanks to a once-in-a-century pandemic, the first major European war in decades, and soaring gas and food prices that the Fed has limited power to affect, Powell could become the first Fed chair since Paul Volcker in

the early 1980s to grapple with “stagflation,” a miserable combination of slow economic growth and high inflation.

Struggling to curb the worst inflation outbreak in four decades, Powell last week engineered a three-quarters-of-a-point increase in the Fed’s short-term interest rate — the largest single rate hike in a quarter-century. It was an unexpectedly aggressive move after Powell had made clear a month earlier that a more modest half-point rate hike was coming.

At his news conference, Powell defended the Fed’s decision by noting that the most recent inflation readings had been even more worrisome than expected. The Fed’s hike will make it more expensive for many consum-

ers and businesses to borrow.

Yet Powell’s explanation was faulted by many Fed watchers, with some complaining that he had failed to articulate a coherent and consistent policy.

“The Fed was ad-libbing, scrambling to catch up to the painfully higher inflation,” said Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody’s Analytics. “The Fed doesn’t have a script and is kind of making it up as it goes here.”

William Dudley, who, as the former head of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, served with Powell on the Fed’s Board of Governors, said on a think tank webcast last week that the central bank’s leader was putting its credibility at risk.

“When the Fed changes their mind at the last minute

like this,” Dudley said, “it does have the potential to undermine the credibility” of its critically important communications with markets and the public.

As those criticisms echo, Powell will visit Capitol Hill this week to give his semi-annual testimony to House and Senate committees, where he could face tougher questions than at any other point in his tenure as Fed chair. He will testify one year after he stressed his confidence to Congress that inflation was temporary and would likely “wane.”

It has not. In May, the government reported, consumer prices accelerated 8.6 percent from a year earlier. At his news conference last week, Powell said the Fed had been surprised by the latest figures,

which have been fueled by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, still-clogged global supply chains, labor shortages and surging demand for services from rents to airline tickets to restaurant meals.

“We’re not seeing progress and we want to see progress and that’s really another part of why we did what we did today,” Powell said Wednesday.

The Fed’s huge rate hike and Powell’s comments renewed concerns among economists about where he has taken the Fed. Most analysts have sharply criticized the Powell Fed for waiting too long to tighten credit when inflation took off last year and warn that it’s now having to raise rates so fast as to risk tipping the economy into recession.





Provided photos  
**ABOVE:** Becky Bowman, of Wabash, received the Sponsor's Choice Award. This is her piece, "Pineapple Upside Down Cake." **RIGHT:** This is the work of Jerry Ginther, of Rochester, titled, "Six Identifying As Nine."



# Honeywell announces Themed Art Competition winners

The exhibit is on display now through Monday, July 11

**STAFF REPORT**

The 2022 Themed Art Competition exhibit is on display through Monday, July 11 in the Clark Gallery at the Honeywell Center, according to digital marketing specialist Kaitlynn Still. Sponsored by the city of Wabash, the exhibit features more than 40 works of art by 21 artists, with all pieces

featuring a theme of "Upside Down." Winning honors were awarded to works created by Elaine Balke, of Silver Lake; Becky Bowman, of Wabash; Rebecca Gazarik, of Yoder; Jerry Ginther, of Rochester; Sarah Pyle, of North Manchester; and Brenda Ramseier, of Silver Lake. Artists receiving an Honorable Mention were Kelly Meadows, of Peru; Barbara Pantaralka, of Dubiecko, Ukraine; Shaun Edward Putnam, of Kokomo; Christina Slayton, of Russiaville;

Maria Snapp, of Tipton; and Elaine Wolfe, of Westfield. Becky Bowman, of Wabash, received the Sponsor's Choice Award. Pieces selected for the exhibit were chosen by judges David Hannon, of Muncie and Sachi Yanari-Rizzo, of Fort Wayne. Hannon, an associate professor of Art at Ball State University, has presented solo exhibitions in New York and Tennessee. His work has been featured in national juried exhibitions and art institutions at Xavier University, the Illinois

Institute of Art Chicago's Gallery 180, the Strohl Art Center in Chautauqua, New York, and more. Rizzo has served in a curator role at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art for nearly 30 years, most recently as Curator of Prints and Drawings. She holds a Master of Arts degree from The Ohio State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Michigan State. She currently serves on the Public Art Selection Committee for Fort Wayne. For more information, visit [honeywellarts.org](http://honeywellarts.org).

## VETERANS

From page A1

In 2021, Wabash County had climbed to fifth overall for benefits received on a per veteran basis. Also last year, Wabash County again realized a marked increase in veteran benefits of \$22.9 million, up substantially from \$21 million in 2020. In 2022, Daugherty said Wabash County again real-

ized an increase in veteran benefits as it "easily" topped the \$23 million mark for the first time. "It is important to point out that aging veterans from both World War II and the Korean War continue to pass on at a steady rate," said Daugherty. Daugherty said this has resulted in a decrease in Wabash County's overall veteran population of approximately 1.9 percent. The overall Wabash County veteran population

is down from 2,127 to 2,086 between 2021 and 2022. By comparison, between 2020 and 2021, the overall Wabash County veteran population was also down from 2,165 to 2,127. "Wabash County has still managed to increase its focus on veteran assistance programs despite the dwindling veteran population," said Daugherty. "This is largely due to the outreach programs and practices of the Veterans

Service Office." Daugherty said their office, which also includes deputy county veteran officer Belinda Ireland, had taken well over 800 actions that benefit county veterans in the past fiscal year despite the office being only part-time manned and budgeted for 1,000 hours yearly at the time of the VA's report. Daugherty was able to make the Veteran Service Office full-time in January with

the approval of the Wabash County Commissioners and the Wabash County Council. Daugherty said they are now able to "better support our county veterans and their families." "Among the benefits that Wabash County Veteran Service Officer Sam Daugherty helps veterans receive are healthcare, disability compensation, burial allowances, educational assistance, vocational rehabilitation assis-

tance and nursing home assistance," said Daugherty. Daugherty said the office is now open Monday through Friday throughout the year at 1 W. Hill St., "but appointments are requested due to the time and attention needed to service each veteran's claim for assistance." For more information, call 260-563-0661 ext. 1281. Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com).

## SUMMIT

From page A1

to showcase the incredible art and culture that Wabash County has to offer." The most recent Japan-Northeast Indiana Summit was held in December 2020 virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. During that event, then-Wabash City Schools (WCS) superintendent Jason Callahan emphasized the importance of foreign investment to the local schools and economy. Callahan said the WCS mission was meant "largely to ensure every kid is college and career ready in a global economy." Callahan said they did that by ensuring every graduate achieves one of the "three Es": Enrollment in college or higher education, employed at a living wage or enlisted in the military. Callahan said in 2008, the recession in Wabash County "really hit hard." Callahan said WCS became an early college school, one of the few in Indiana. In 2019, 20 percent of Wabash High School (WHS) graduates left high school with an Ivy Tech statewide transfer core, "which is basically their first year at a four-year institution."

Callahan said 63 percent of Hoosier children were enrolling in two- and four-year colleges, 38 percent of college-going students completed in four years and 59.2 percent of high school students who enroll in college completed within six years. Callahan said it was at this point WCS started looking for partnerships in the community. Callahan said through GWC they were connected with Oji Intertech, a Japanese company with a location in North Manchester. Oji Intertech is one of several foreign companies with a presence in Wabash County: Wabash's Home Design is based in Malaysia, Urbana's Kalenborn Abresist Corporation is based in Germany and Wabash Castings is based in Canada. Callahan said what Oji Intertech needed was a qualified, skilled workforce, so they talked about re-framing the image of manufacturing. Callahan said their Career Partnership Scholars program was designed to "empower students to realize an affordable pathway to achieve their passions and to develop and sustain a quality workforce through local talent development and retention." Callahan said Oji Inter-

tech, in turn, "could have a viable pipeline of talent for years to come." At the December 2020 event, Consul-General of Japan in Chicago Kenichi Okada said he visited Wabash in September 2020, when WHS started its first-ever foreign language program, studying Japanese. "That's great steps that can be modeled for other schools across Indiana and the United States," said Okada. Okada said the region was "doing everything right." Okada said three previous investment missions "have more than put your name on the map in Japan." "Japan's spotlight is now brightly shining on your region," said Okada. Okada said they have about 340 Japanese business facilities in Indiana that provided about 70,000 direct jobs. Okada said that figure jumped by 28 percent over the past five years. "Indiana shines because it is home to nearly half of the jobs created by 1,600 Japanese companies in the 10-state region," said Okada. During the December 2020 keynote presentation, BowerGroupAsia's man-

aging director for Japan Kiyooki Aburaki said Indiana's location was key to the success of the partnership, but that the "people of Indiana are wonderful." Aburaki said he traced the state's special relationship to their country back decades. In June 1984, Indiana Gov. Robert D. Orr announced a bipartisan legislative agreement to abolish Indiana's unitary taxation, which 12 states use to calculate a local company's tax as a percentage of its total, worldwide profits, not on simply the profits of the subsidiary situated in that states, according to David E. Sanger of The New York Times. However, Aburaki said the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) "still have some problems." For more information, visit [www.growwabashcounty.com/2022japansummit](http://www.growwabashcounty.com/2022japansummit) or email [sarah@growwabashcounty.com](mailto:sarah@growwabashcounty.com). Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com).

## PARADE

From page A1

required for this free event. However, an adult must accompany children under the age of 12. "After the parade, families can stay on Hill Street and enjoy a block party-like festival with activities and food provided by several businesses on Hill Street," said Till. Till said organizations participating in the event include the Wabash Carnegie Public Library (WCPL), Wabash Christian Church, Wabash Presbyterian Church, The Montessori School at Wabash Presbyterian Church, Babe of Wabash County, Common Grounds and Purdue Extension of Wabash County. Babe of Wabash County, which is organizing the event, is a project under the Community Foundation of Wabash County (CFWC) and is not income-based. It is open to all types of families including biological parents, step-parents, single parents,

adoptive parents, guardians, foster parents and grandparents. Babe is a spin-off of a larger organization called B.A.B.E (Beds And Britches, Etc.) B.A.B.E. can be found in many different counties in Indiana. Babe of Wabash County is an incentive-based program that partners with businesses and organizations in the county that promote good health, education and connections. When parents take their children from pregnancy to 5-year-old to Babe partners, they will earn coupons. In addition, Babe offers classes and support groups. Babe of Wabash County coupons may be redeemed for much-needed baby items like diapers, wipes, clothing, cribs and mattresses, car seats and more at the Babe of Wabash County store. For more information, email [babeofwabashinc@gmail.com](mailto:babeofwabashinc@gmail.com). Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com).

KEEPING YOU UP TO SPEED

Rural HIGH-SPEED internet for \$75 per month\*

CALL TODAY 765-470-1871

\*See dealer for full details.

Handyman Services

Emergency Service!

• Honey DO LIST

• FREE ESTIMATES

• Decks

• Fences

• Trash Removal

• Windows

• Siding

No job too small. Almost any job!

Call anytime! 423-747-0895

Gospel Radio Praise

Locally Owned Radio Station

Listen to all your Southern Gospel Favorites 24/7

Download the FREE smartphone app or Alexa

www.gospelpraiseradio.live

Catch Andy McCord in the mornings weekdays 6a-10am

Visit us online: [www.wabashplainedealer.com](http://www.wabashplainedealer.com)



SOUTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC AWARDS HONORS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Several students were recognized at the 2021-22 Southwood High School Academic Awards Program on Monday, May 23, according to school counselor Roger Boone.

Department Awards

Agriculture

**Outstanding Animal Science Student:** Isabella Knotte

**Outstanding Into to Agriculture Student:** Kendall Sarll

Art

**Outstanding Advanced 2D Art Student:** Ronaldo Benavidez-Arellano

**Outstanding Advanced 3D Art Student:** Isabella Gusmano

Business

**Outstanding College & Careers Students:** Cherish Dillon, Zoey Gaylourd

**Outstanding Personal Finance Students:** Emma Adams, Carley Whitesel

**Outstanding Into to Business Student:** Kinsley Miller

**Outstanding Accounting Student:** Elise Adams

**Outstanding Marketing Students:** Allianah Lopez, Jason Oprisek

**Outstanding Professional Career Internship Student:** Marissa Metzger

**Overall Outstanding Business Department Students:** Rylee Barney, Trista Roser

English

**Outstanding English 9 Student:** Rowan Goodpasture

**Outstanding English 10 Student:** Shyanne Stout

**Outstanding English 11 Student:** Sara Perez

**Outstanding English 12 Student:** Kloe Teulker

**Outstanding AP English Language/Comp Students:** Bryn Mealy, Dakota Wilson

**Outstanding ACP/Dual Credit Student:** Beau Kendall

**Overall Outstanding English Department Student:** Trista Roser

Family and Consumer Science (FACS)

**Outstanding Child Development Students:** Audrey Amos

**Outstanding Nutrition and Wellness Students:** Carrie Collins, Jaret Denney, Jordan Hart, Kinsley Miller

Foreign Language

**Outstanding Spanish I Student:** Zoey Gaylourd

**Outstanding Spanish II Student:** Emma Adams

**Outstanding Spanish III Student:** Haley Lanning

Health/Physical Education

**Outstanding Health Students:** Luke Herring, Makenna Snow

**Outstanding Female PE Student:** Grace Drake

**Outstanding Male PE Student:** Ian Vanderpool

**Outstanding Elective PE Student:** Jacob Marlow

Industrial Technology

**Outstanding CAD I Student:** Kendall Sarll

Mathematics

**Outstanding Algebra I Student:** Zoey Gaylourd

**Outstanding Geometry Student:** Jordan Hart

**Outstanding Algebra II Students:** Carrie Collins, Bryn Mealy

**Outstanding Pre-Calculus Student:** Elise Adams

**Outstanding Calculus Students:** Tyler Whitesel

**Overall Outstanding Math Student:** Joseph Bland

Science

**Outstanding Biology I Students:** Grace Drake, Rowan Goodpasture

**Outstanding Anatomy & Physiology Student:** Sara Perez

**Outstanding Chemistry Students:** Emma Adams, Libee Price, Carley Whitesel

**Overall Outstanding Science Student:** Bryn Mealy

Social Studies

**Outstanding ACP US History Students:** Elise Adams, Bryn Mealy

**Outstanding United States History Students:** Asyraf Luqman, Sara Perez

**Outstanding Holocaust Student:** Logan Hiner

**Outstanding Psychology Student:** Elise Adams

**Outstanding Civil War Student:** Dylan Stout

**Outstanding World History Student:** Gabriel Mealy

**Outstanding AP World History Student:** Randall Boone

**Outstanding Current Events Student:** Dylan Stout

**Outstanding Senior Social Studies Student:** Maddison Hunter

**Outstanding High School Robotics Program Students:** Casey Boardman, Ryan Deeter, Grace Drake, Daedric Kaehr, Ethan Lochar

Outstanding Student Congress Members

Emma Adams, Ella Hauptert, Allianah Lopez, Dakota Wilson

Senior Student Congress Members

Rylee Barney, Joseph Bland, Grant Holloway, Beau Kendall, Makenlie Lambert, Marissa Metzger, Trista Roser, Brayden Smith, Kloe Teulker, Tyler Whitesel, Bailey Wyatt

Senior Class Cabinet Members

President – Kloe Teulker  
Vice President – Rylee Barney  
Secretary – Marissa Metzger  
Treasurer – Joseph Bland  
Cabinet Member – Mya Denney  
Cabinet Member – Makenlie Lambert

Academic & Technical Honors Diploma Candidates

Rylee Barney, Joseph Bland, Isabelle Carpenter, Mya Denney, Madison Hipskind, Maddison Hunter, Beau Kendall, Makenlie Lambert, Haley Lanning, Stephen Madaris, Marissa Metzger, Trista Roser, Brayden Smith, Ashton Steele, Kloe Teulker, Tyler Whitesel, Bailey Wyatt

ning, Stephen Madaris, Marissa Metzger, Trista Roser, Brayden Smith, Ashton Steele, Amelia Sweet, Kloe Teulker, Tyler Whitesel, Bailey Wyatt

Presidential Academic Education Awards

Joseph Bland, Maddison Hunter, Tyler Whitesel

MSDWC Senior Academic Achievement Awards

Joseph Bland, Mya Denney, Madison Hipskind, Maddison Hunter, Beau Kendall, Makenlie Lambert, Haley Lanning, Trista Roser, Kloe Teulker, Tyler Whitesel, Bailey Wyatt

MSDWC Junior Academic Achievement Awards

Elise Adams, Zebadiah Herring, Bryn Mealy, Katelyn Ranck, Kyle Smith, Dylan Stout, Aleia Sweet, Dakota Wilson, Alaina Winer, Makenna Younce

Southwood Athletics Senior Honor Blanket Awards

Joseph Bland, Mya Denney, Jacob Marlow, Marissa Metzger, Brayden Smith, Bailey Wyatt

Southwood Athletics Senior Knight Loyalty Awards

Mya Denney

National Honor Society Seniors

Rylee Barney, Joseph Bland, Isabelle Carpenter, Mya Denney, Madison Hipskind, Maddison Hunter, Beau Kendall, Makenlie Lambert, Haley Lanning, Marissa Metzger, Trista Roser, Madison Sarll, Ashton Steele, Kloe Teulker, Bailey Wyatt

Scholarships

**Indiana University Kokomo Scholarships:** Isabelle Carpenter, Stephen Madaris

**Wabash County Farm Bureau Inc. Scholarships:** Marissa Metzger, Brayden Smith

**Tri-Kappa Scholarship:** Mya Denney

**MSDWC Education Association Scholarship:** Haley Lanning

**Dazey Band Scholarship:** Jared Richards

**Eagles' Keith Jolly Scholarship:** Joseph Bland

**MSDWC Board of Education Scholarship:** Makenlie Lambert

**Briannon Joelle Curless Memorial Scholarship:** Rylee Barney

**Floyd O. Glass Scholarship:** Stephen Madaris

**Beryl M. Klare Scholarships:** Rylee Barney, Joseph Bland, Mya Denney, Madison Hipskind, Madison Sarll, Brayden Smith, Ashton Steele

**John and Edith Richards Memorial Scholarships:** Mya Denney, Madison Hipskind, Haley Lanning, Trista Roser

**Charles and Florence Emrick Scholarship:** Madison Hipskind

**Blair and Marie Tate Scholarship:** Stephen Madaris

**Wabash County Society for Crippled Children Scholarship:** Madison Hipskind

**Wabash County Memorial Scholarship:** Stephen Madaris

**Walter Yopst Educational Scholarships:** Stephen Madaris, Tyler Whitesel

**Community Foundation Early Award Scholarships:** Rylee Barney, Brandon Carey, Mya Denney, Maddison Hunter, Makenlie Lambert, Haley Lanning, Marissa Metzger, Trista Roser, Madison Sarll, Ashton Steele, Kloe Teulker, Bailey Wyatt

**Heartland Career Center Scholarship:** Tyler Whitesel

**Midwest Eye Consultants/Kiwanis Self-Reliance Award:** Beau Kendall

**Indiana Tech Elite Scholarship:** Beau Kendall

**Indiana University Bloomington Provost Scholarship:** Trista Roser

**Burger King Scholars Award:** Maddison Hunter

**University of Alabama National Recognition Scholarship:** Maddison Hunter

Salamonie Senior Luncheon set for Monday, July 11

STAFF REPORT

The monthly Salamonie Senior Luncheon will be held at noon Monday, July 11, at Salamonie Lake Interpretive Center, 3691 New Holland Road, Andrews, according to interpretive manager Teresa Rody.

Anyone age 50 or older is welcome to attend.

“Reena Ramos will share about ACRES Land Trust, a member-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting natural and working lands in northeast Indiana and portions of southern Michigan and northwest Ohio,” said Rody. Some of ACRES nature preserves are open to the public with hiking trails and offers around 10 events per season. ACRES members and volunteers make protecting land possible. Learn how you can help protect the land you love.”

The program begins with a carry-in meal at noon. Guests should bring a side dish to share, a beverage and their table service. The main dish, pulled pork, is provided by Friends of the Upper Wabash Interpretive Services. A donation will be accepted to help defray costs.

Seating is limited. Reservations may be made by calling 260-468-2127.

For more information, visit Facebook.com/UpperWabash, https://on.IN.gov/salamonielake or dnr.IN.gov.

Visit us online at  
www.wabash  
plaindealer.com

I CAN HEAR, BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND



Did you know that the earliest sign of hearing difficulty is often the complaint that “I can hear, but I can’t understand.” While this type of comment may seem contradictory, it makes a lot of sense to the hearing care professionals at Beltone. In an industry that is often confusing to consumers – our goal is to make patients comfortable in a no pressure environment. At Beltone, our hearing screenings and evaluations are always complimentary. We take the time to get to know you and your medical history and explain the results of your evaluation in an easy-to-understand way.

What you can expect at Beltone:

**Great hearing devices:** Our advanced digital technology gives you speech clarity with minimal background noise.

**Customer service:** From day one, we established a set of values unlike anything else in the industry – making your health our number one priority.

**Exclusive BelCare:** Receive a lifetime of care and service for both you and your device.

Hearing aids are not just to help you hear but are critical to improving your brain's ability to decode speech. If hearing loss is left untreated, speech discrimination drops over time. This is because the part of the brain that decodes speech is not getting any exercise. Like a muscle without exercise, the ability to decode speech will deteriorate, but unlike a muscle, in most cases you can't get it back. This is why it's very important to get a hearing aid when you need one, rather than waiting until you can't hear at all.

P.S. We know there are hundreds of hearing aid advertisements out there promising different things. We see the news stories that talk about over-the-counter hearing aids. We can tell you the truth about “cheap” hearing aids—they don’t work very well. At Beltone we are dedicated to finding a hearing solution that is right for both you and your budget!



**FREE**  
Hearing Screening  
& Consultation  
Expires 6/30/22

**SPECIAL**  
Hearing Aids  
starting at just **\$999**  
Offer valid on one (1) Rely 2 battery-operated RIE digital Hearing Aid technology. Not valid on previous purchases. While supplies last.  
Expires 6/30/22

All New Beltone Rely 2!



100% Digital ITC  
(In-the-canal)  
**WAS \$1999**  
**YOU PAY \$999\***



100% Digital Open-Fit BTE  
(Behind-the-ear)  
**WAS \$1999**  
**YOU PAY \$999\***



100% Digital Half Shell  
(Half Shell-in-the-ear)  
**WAS \$1999**  
**YOU PAY \$999\***



100% Digital Full Shell  
(Full Shell-in-the-ear)  
**WAS \$1999**  
**YOU PAY \$999\***

\*Offer valid on one (1) Rely 2 digital hearing aid technology. Fits up to 35 dB loss.

HUNTINGTON

2808 Theater Ave., Ste. B  
(next to Edward Jones)  
**260-366-0403**

MARION

1228 N. Baldwin Ave.  
(Next to Verizon)  
**765-613-0005**



Now serving Indiana, Illinois & Ohio!  
Call 800-371-HEAR or visit beltoneindiana.com



**Price Match Guarantee:**  
We will meet or beat any competitor price or coupon on comparable item or product



Most insurance  
plans accepted

All Beltone Indiana offices are locally operated by your friends and neighbors



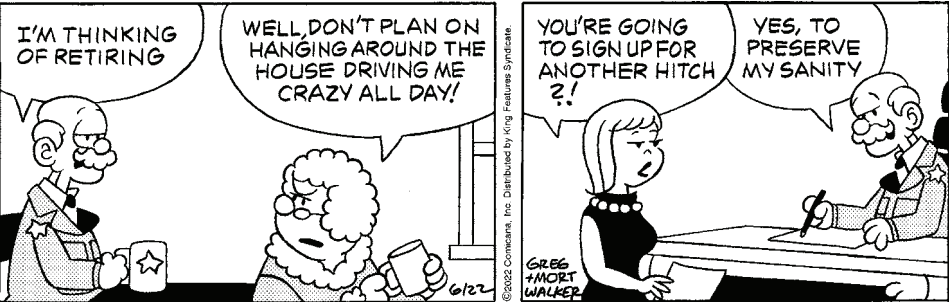
\*Valid at participating locations only. See locations for details. \*\*Offer valid on one (1) Rely 2 RIE digital hearing aid technology. Fits up to a 35 dB loss. Previous purchases excluded. Cannot be combined with any other promotions or discounts. Benefits of hearing instruments may vary by type and degree of hearing loss, noise environment, accuracy of hearing evaluation and proper fit. © 2021 All rights reserved. Beltone is a trademark of GN Hearing Care Corporation.

FINANCING AVAILABLE!





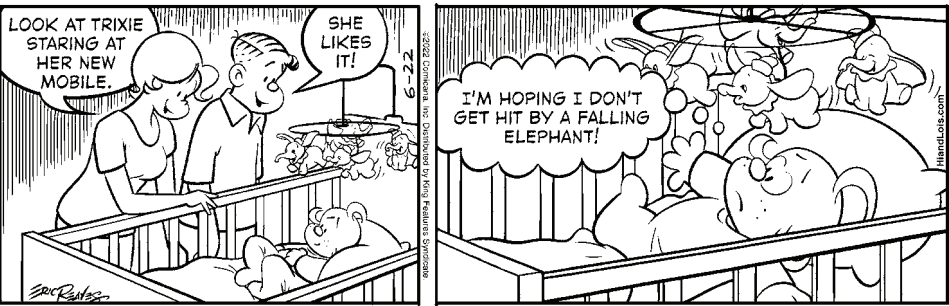
BEETLE BAILEY



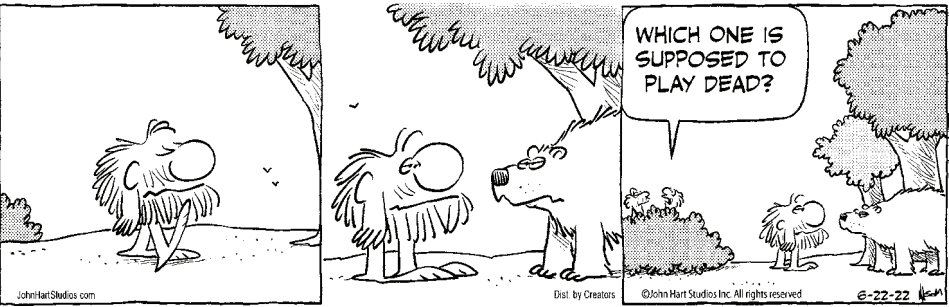
BLONDIE



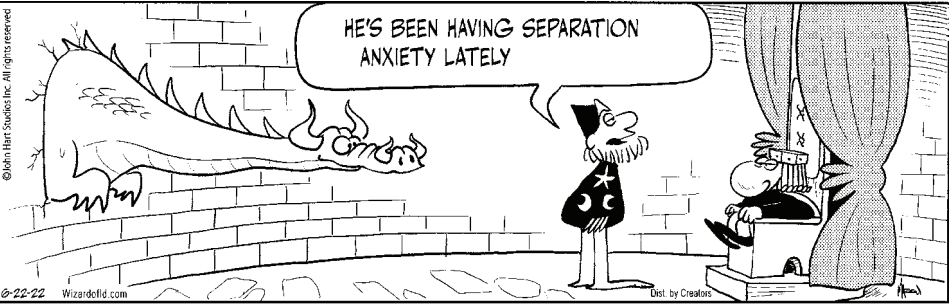
HI & LOIS



BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT



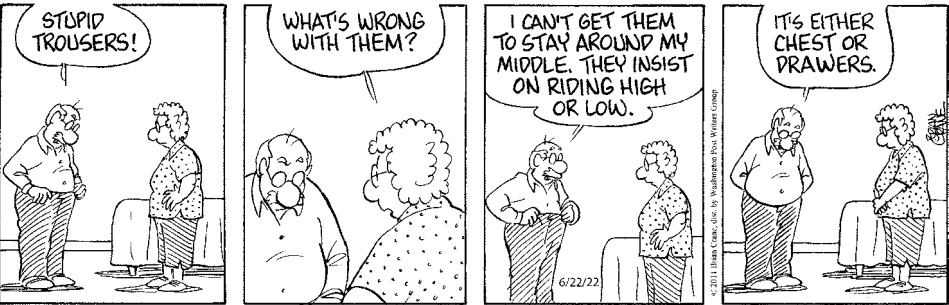
GARFIELD



FORT KNOX



PICKLES



SUDOKU

**How to play:** Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

Today's solution

6	7	8	5	2	9	5	1	7
8	9	2	1	7	5	7	8	6
5	7	1	6	7	8	6	2	9
7	2	7	9	8	6	1	5	6
1	8	5	2	6	7	9	7	8
9	8	6	5	1	7	8	7	2
7	1	8	7	9	2	6	8	9
8	6	9	7	9	1	2	6	7
2	5	7	8	6	7	9	1	5

	6					5		
7	3	2	1					
			2		7	3		
		8	4	1				6
3								1
9				8	6	4		
			8		9			
					1	2	6	3
	1						7	

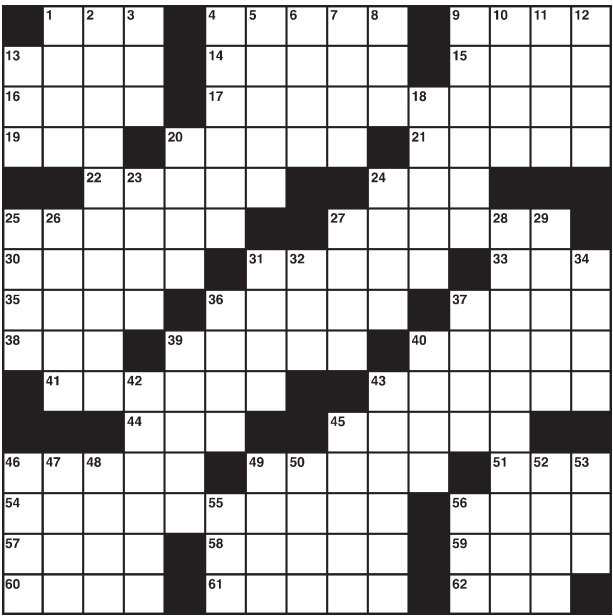
THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1 Mr. Leno
- 4 "I Got \_\_\_", Jim Croce song
- 9 Travel like a scent
- 13 No longer here
- 14 Part of USNA
- 15 Luau dance
- 16 Moistens
- 17 Failed to notice
- 19 "Not \_\_\_ long shot!"
- 20 Stadium levels
- 21 Comes in last
- 22 \_\_\_ in; brings under control
- 24 Word attached to stick or reading
- 25 Unoccupied
- 27 \_\_\_ about; praising wildly
- 30 Unable to sit still
- 31 West Point newcomer
- 33 "Please Don't \_\_\_ the Daisies"
- 35 In a \_\_\_; sulking
- 36 Rosary pieces
- 37 Citrus fruit
- 38 \_\_\_ Tac; breath mint
- 39 Treat a wound
- 40 Religious tenet
- 41 Less complicated
- 43 \_\_\_ cracker
- 44 Boxer's foot
- 45 Scale
- 46 Breakfast strip
- 49 Hang limply
- 51 Abnormal
- 54 Hilarious
- 56 Half a sextet
- 57 Singer Celine
- 58 Small appliances
- 59 Charitable offering
- 60 Makes clothes
- 61 NASCAR's Richard
- 62 "So long!"

DOWN

- 1 Mr. Bishop
- 2 South Pole's location
- 3 TV's "Say \_\_\_ to the Dress"
- 4 Sanctify with oil
- 5 Main sections of cathedrals
- 6 Declare positively
- 7 Spoils
- 8 Perpendicular annex
- 9 \_\_\_ Goldberg
- 10 Diving birds
- 11 Run away
- 12 Tiny amounts
- 13 Initials for Obama's predecessor
- 18 Pimiento holder
- 20 Wee
- 23 Compass direction
- 24 Retrievers, for short
- 25 Far-reaching
- 26 "\_\_\_ Get Your Gun"
- 27 Cincinnati team
- 28 Helpful to those nearby
- 29 Fraternity letter
- 31 Social equal
- 32 \_\_\_ Cruces, NM
- 34 Browns or Braves
- 36 Make tea
- 37 Rich soil
- 39 Actress Rigg



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

6/22/22

Today's solution

S	E	A	B	S	A	L	E	D	S	M	E	S
S	W	T	V	S	N	O	I	D	N	O	I	D
O	I	R	L	S	N	O	I	H	V	O	R	D
D	O	D	O	D	O	D	O	D	N	O	C	V
B	M	I	T	C	M	A	D					
M	V	H	V	G	S	E	R	I	S	V	E	
V	M	G	O	D	S	S	E	R	C	I	L	
E	M	I	T	S	S	E	R	B	L	I	N	
I	V	E	S	E	R	P	A	S	I	N	V	
G	N	I	A	V	R	I	N	V	C	V	A	
S	E	S	O	T	S	R	E	I	L	V	A	B
D	E	K	O	O	T	H	E	A	O	S	L	E
V	T	H	E	V	A	N	E	N	O	G		
A	V	L	I	M	A	N	E	A	V	A		

©2022 Tribune Content Agency, LLC  
All Rights Reserved.

- 40 Faucet problem
- 42 Silverware pieces
- 43 Gleaming
- 45 Census
- 46 Immature flowers
- 47 "...four and twenty blackbirds baked in \_\_\_"
- 48 Crop pest
- 49 Critical
- 50 Word with canal or beer
- 52 Impromptu screwdriver
- 53 \_\_\_ and don'ts; rules to follow
- 55 \_\_\_ up; shred
- 56 File folder label spot

Group chat leads to group dilemma

**DEAR AMY:** My friend "Jane" recently texted our group of girlfriends with information concerning another girlfriend, "Maggie."

Jane told us all that she was using a social media dating app while out of town for business and Maggie's husband "Jed" (also out of town for business) "swiped right" on Jane.

The screenshots she shared with us showed that he had set up his profile to appear single.

Jane asked for advice on what to do with this. We have long suspected Jed was no good, but we also acknowledge this couple could have an open relationship. Either way, we felt it best that Maggie have the information.

Jane and I don't know Maggie well, but another woman in the group, "Susan," does.

Susan agreed to pass this information on to Maggie discreetly and tactfully. Unfortunately, it's been months, and we just learned that Susan never told Maggie because it makes her uncomfortable.

My husband, also close with Maggie, then said that he would tell her instead. He also hasn't followed through, citing the same reason.

I went back to the source and asked Jane to notify Maggie, and she also declined, saying it "wasn't her place."

I am starting to get antsy knowing this information is in everyone's head except Maggie's! I feel terrible for her. I feel wrong stepping in but I just feel she needs the information.

Do I drop it? Is it out of line to send an anonymous letter or something? I don't want to cause more drama or confusion, only inform. – Fretting

**DEAR FRETTING:** My first piece of advice is that you should all stop discussing this as a group. This has descended into the realm of personal gossip.

The obvious solution would have been for "Jane" to respond to "Jed's" swipe, saying, "Dude, I know your wife!" Otherwise, all you know is that this man is posing as an unmarried man and "swiping right" while out of town. While I agree that this is dishonest and definitely a violation of most relationship norms – this is all you know.

You might be the right person to put this to rest, because you don't have an extant relationship to protect, and it is obviously bothering you.

If you decide to contact her, you should only tell her, "A single woman I know saw 'Jed's' profile on a dating app. I don't know anything more than that, but after wrestling with this dilemma, I've decided to tell you."

Otherwise – drop it.

**DEAR AMY:** My niece (the youngest) is getting married in far northern Minnesota at a luxurious location. I live in the Southwest.

My brother (her dad) just sent me an email telling me that his wife is very upset that I am not planning to attend. He stated that he had hoped one person from our side of the family would be there.

I live 1,000 miles away and work full time. I cannot afford airfare – or gas and hotel expenses – nor can I take that much time away from work.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.

information.



# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
<http://young.senate.gov/contact>

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
<http://braun.senate.gov/>

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
[Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov](mailto:Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov)

**State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
[h18@in.gov](mailto:h18@in.gov)

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website:  
[www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl)

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com) with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

## DAILY SCRIPTURE

But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory, and the lifter of my head.

Psalms 3:3

# Pence helped save democracy from Trump

Hang Mike Pence’s portrait in the gallery of national heroes. As riveting testimony from Thursday’s Jan. 6 hearing showed again and again, it was Donald Trump’s once obsequious wingman who found a backbone and rejected every illegal effort to block Joe Biden’s victory, from private and public political pressure from Trump to crackpot legal and constitutional theories offered by lunatic lawyer/Ph.D. John Eastman to an angry crowd of Capitol invaders eager to turn itself into an actual lynch mob and string him up.

The testimony of former Federal Judge Mike Luttig and the VP’s former counsel Greg Jacob established clearly that they and the man they advised, Pence, were true to the Constitution and the Republic in the dark days of December and January, as Trump’s November loss was inevitability going to become Biden’s Jan. 6 certification and Jan. 20 inauguration. Pence, Luttig and Jacob followed the law, not the wants of one crazy man in the Oval Office.

The men who put country over party are rock-solid conservative Republicans, as is the committee lawyer who masterfully

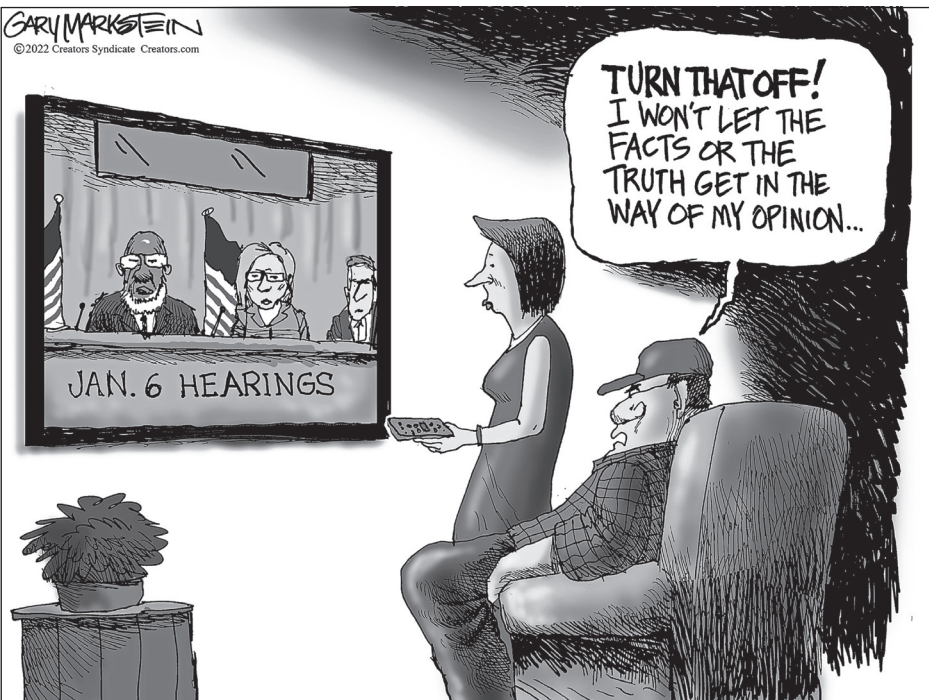
questioned them Thursday, John Wood, who served as the Kansas City U.S. attorney under George W. Bush.

Compare their fealty to due process and representative democracy with the ravings of “Dr.” Eastman, who was prescribing a poisonous prescription that would kill the patient. Eastman contended that the VP had the power to accept or not accept the results from any state. Thus Pence could reject Biden states that Trump falsely claimed he won and reinstall him for another four years in the White House.

Under this theory, then-veep Al Gore could have declared himself the victor over Bush. And Kamala Harris would now be empowered to pick the next president, election be damned. Even Eastman would later realize it was phony as he sought a pardon from Trump (he didn’t get one).

But, back to that Pence likeness. Depict him refusing to flee, holed up in a Capitol loading dock as the marauders rampaged in the halls above, defiling the Temple of Liberty by smearing their feces. He then returned and certified Biden.

*This editorial was first published in the New York Daily News.*



# Money in politics is eroding our democracy

By MORRIS PEARL

The January 6th hearings have shocked the nation with disturbing details about Trump and his allies’ plot to overturn the 2020 election. It is clear that they actively worked to tear down the very foundations of American democracy for their gain.

But while the nation’s attention is fixated on these hearings, we shouldn’t pretend that January 6th was an isolated event. America’s democracy has been under siege for decades from a more subtle but equally dangerous force, as many of the same far-right billionaires and legislators who supported Trump and the January 6th insurrectionists have spent years working to undermine the principle of one person, one vote. Thanks to their work, we now live in a system where money equals power, and the wishes of the American public have little to no impact when compared to the policy preferences of the ultra-rich.

Across the country, policies that are supported by an often vast majority of voters, from taxing the rich to raising the minimum wage to marijuana legalization to restricting the rights of teenagers to buy assault rifles are ignored by lawmakers, with virtually no political change taking place to realize those goals. Behind the scenes, the nation’s rich and powerful gain enormous access, and influence through political contributions that interfere with our representatives truly representing the will of the rest of the people. This is all the direct result of the right-wing crusade to undermine our campaign finance system.

Twelve years ago the Supreme Court took a major step in the wrong direction by ruling in Citizens United that legislation limiting campaign spending by corporations, unions, and nonprofits violated the first amendment. This ruling opened the floodgates for corporations and rich people to flood political discourse with their cash. Their ability to fund the campaigns of politicians who support their interests, not the people’s, has resulted in the degradation of the average voter’s political power. Put simply, in an America where money is equated to free speech, the money of the rich drowns out the voice of average Americans.

Supreme Court decisions like Citizens United v. FEC, Buckley v. Valeo, and

SpeechNow.org v. FEC have asserted that spending money is an expression of speech and that multi-billion dollar corporations can spend limitlessly to fund the politicians of their choice. They’ve done so with glee. Pharmaceutical companies give millions to block drug price negotiations, firearm manufacturers make contributions to keep gun control laws lax, insurance companies pay to try to prevent Medicare from expanding to cover vision and dental, corporations and the wealthy donate to lower their taxes, and the fossil fuel industry blocks action against climate change.

**Put simply, in an America where money is equated to free speech, the money of the rich drowns out the voice of average Americans.**

As a result, we’ve witnessed lawmakers pass or block bills because that’s what their wealthy donors tell them is important, even if those bills are contrary to what a majority of voters want. A study by professors from Princeton and Northwestern University showed that support by the majority of voters has virtually no impact on policy outcomes when compared to the demands of wealthy donors. Former Rep. Chris Collins (R-NY) admitted as much when talking about the 2017 tax bill (that gave nearly \$2 trillion in tax cuts to wealthy individuals and corporations), saying: “My donors are basically saying: ‘Get it done or don’t ever call me again.’”

I hope that he just forgot that his donors are not all of the people he is supposed to represent, but it is still scary to hear him admit that the threat of withholding campaign donations is a major influence on policy.

Our democracy is out of balance. We’re rapidly approaching an oligarchy, with a few wealthy individuals essentially running the show.

Without reasonable limits on campaign finance, politics becomes a competition where candidates scramble to gather as much money from donors, corporations, and special interest groups. Average Americans don’t have millions to spend on candidates who support widely popular policies, leaving them the losers when we allow unlimited money in politics. There are many dangers to our democracy, and not all are as obvious as an angry mob in MAGA hats. They may be dressed differently, but the corporate lobbyists in thousand-dollar suits pose just as much of a threat.

*Morris Pearl is a former managing director at Blackrock and is now chair of the Patriotic Millionaires.*

# Ancient technology for today

Learning from the past is not the same as living in the past. Learning from the past is the only way one can truly live either progressively or conservatively in the present, whatever one’s preference might be. But don’t expect Millennials and Zers to believe such a tale.

Young people today believe our society’s almost daily technological advances make anything from ten or more years ago unimaginably dull and valueless. But truth be

**Robert Shinkoskey**



told, the earth has forgotten or misplaced more major technologies from the past than any hot-box, hands-free technology we have invented lately in the present. Pre-Christian underground sewers in Rome, smallpox immunization in India 1,500 years before it was “discovered” in England, and democracy using the Ten Commandments in ancient Israel all would be pretty hot stuff today if they hadn’t already been invented long ago.

The greatest technology of all, of course, is the art and science of living peaceably together, a thing lost to our understanding in the Dark Ages. If we don’t find a way to have that old engineering at our fingertips once again, we will destroy ourselves, our friends, and all of our cool technologies right along with us.

Peace and justice were partially re-invented in Europe 500 years ago and imported to America 400 years ago. But it slipped away again around the time of World War I and World War II. It is for sure lost to the understanding of the cavemen and cavewomen huddled around a fire pit just off the Capital Beltway near the Potomac River in Washington, D.C. in 2022.

Americans of both political stripes and independents too, clearly have never been given the political version of the birds and the bees talk. Not by their parents, not by their school teachers, not by newspapers or newscasters, not by non-profits or profit corporations, not by university professors or elected officials ... not by anyone.

So here it is. To live peaceably among equally empowered citizen neighbors in America, we must all go back to school somewhere and get a legal education. That’s right, we need to study our Constitution and the political science of nations. We do that by reading history and by getting off our butts and getting some experience in the public square. To accomplish those two tidy little tasks, we first have to distance ourselves from the addictions that currently immobilize us, including things like overeating, video games, porn and online chatting and shopping. We must stop spending 90 percent of our discretionary time entertaining ourselves and spend that time instead empowering ourselves.

In our legal studies, we will need to learn the three main powers of the people in a democracy that must always be exercised exclusively through elected representatives, and not fobbed off onto the executive or judicial branches. Not going to tell you what they are. That is your homework assignment.

We must legislate and enforce term limits for any public official given anything more than two ounces of political power. We must exercise the impeachment process frequently and vigorously to weed out bad apples. We must get our churches back on track caring more about salvation in this life than the next. We must return to “states’ rights” and local home rule in cities and counties instead of trying to solve every problem in those caveman negotiations in D.C. We must find partners we can truly be committed to for a lifetime so that children can grow up in a thoroughly peaceful and just environment until it is time for them to fly away and spread that form of government to others.

*Robert Kimball Shinkoskey is a historian of religion and government and an advocate for public health, private health and any other kind of health available to us.*

## LETTERS

### Thank you to all who made the 10th Annual Memorial Day Car Show a success

The Laketon-Pleasant Township Association expresses a sincere thank you to the sponsors of the 10th Annual Memorial Day Car Show and contributors for the 27 door prizes and goody bags. A special thanks to the 110 entries of cars, trucks and bikes lining the streets of Laketon, representing 32 towns and cities of northern Indiana. DJ Fast Eddie filled the air with music and added to the event camaraderie, entertaining boys and girls with games and prizes mid-afternoon.

At noon, the show kicked off with a tribute to veterans by auxiliary secretary Tina James, a prayer by Tony Meredith of Post No. 402 and thank you for their service, remembering all veterans with the playing of “Taps” and a flag-raising. Food was available from Sons of the American Legion Post No. 402, the No. 402 Auxiliary and Blue Bird Cafe.

The car show replaces the annual June “Laketonian Days” Festival, which originated in 1976 and was a popular event until the early 2000s. The car show proceeds are used to fund the 24 street lamps located throughout the town, funded only through donations of a February mailing to residents, homeowners and local businesses and industries. Street lights are not funded through any other financial means.

Thank you to the Laketon Lions, Long Lake Campgrounds, Lowell and Sharon Lindzy Farms, Shepherd’s Chevrolet, CFC Distributors, Brandt’s Harley-Davidson, Crossroads Band, Wabash Engraving, Stine Tire, NAPA Auto Parts, Car Recyclers, Auto Value, Neighborhood Fresh New Market, Quality Quick Lube, Boocher Automotive Detailing, Friermood, Johnson Petroleum, Blue Bird Cafe, KimberlyPoehler.com, Chillz’ Ice Cream, Rhinestones and Roses, McDonald’s, Dewayne Glass Repair and Manchester Inc.

The winners of the top awards were: Patriotic – Caleb and Sierra Province, of Wabash; Best Engine – Jay Andale, of Columbia City; Best Paint – Don Hiser, of Fort Wayne; Best Interior and Best of Show – Joe Maloni, of Huntington; and Best Rat Rod – Evert Brubaker, of Laketon.

The top five bike winners were: Don Hiser, of Fort Wayne; Todd Larimore, of Leo; Eugene Smith, of Laketon; Rob Butler, of Fort Wayne; and Jon Swanson, of Laketon.

**Thelma Butler  
Treasurer  
Laketon-Pleasant Township Association**



PULSE

From page A1

Fireworks Over Mississinewa is set for Saturday, June 25

Fireworks Over Mississinewa, “one of Indiana’s best fireworks displays,” has been planned for Saturday, June 25. All activities will be held in Mississinewa Lake’s Miami State Recreational Area (SRA), 4673 S. 625 East, Peru. Activities for the family begin Saturday morning with games and target shoots and conclude Saturday evening with the grand finale of Fireworks Over Mississinewa. Mississinewa Battle Field Society of 1812 will have an encampment and demonstrations throughout the day. Entrance to Miami SRA will begin at 11 a.m., with an entrance fee of a freewill donation in support of next year’s fireworks; and the gate closes at 9:30 p.m., or earlier, depending on parking availability. The schedule for Saturday, June 25 includes 9 a.m. – Raising of the colors (American flag); 11 a.m. – Youth and family archery shoot at the archery range.; 12:45 p.m. – Registration for cornhole at the beach. The cost will be \$5 per player.; 1 p.m. – Cornhole tournament at the beach.; 1:30 p.m. – Pellet shoot at the beach.; 2 p.m. – 1812 Musket and Rifle Firing Demonstration.; 3 p.m. – Beach games.; 5 p.m. – Lowering of the colors (American flag).; and 10 p.m. – Fireworks at the beach.

NMCH hosting IHS’s ‘From Pencils to Pixels: Hoosier Cartoons and Comics’ traveling exhibit

The many creations of Hoosier cartoonists are being highlighted with the Indiana Historical Society’s (IHS’s) traveling exhibit, “From Pencils to Pixels: Hoosier Cartoons and Comics,” according to North Manchester Center for History (NMCH) director Laura Rager. Through Monday, June 27, the NMCH will host the exhibit at 122 E. Main St., North Manchester. Normal visiting hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays to Fridays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 260-982-0672 or visit [www.northmanchestercenterforhistory.org](http://www.northmanchestercenterforhistory.org) or [www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org).

Applications sought for the WCUF Annual Campaign

The Wabash County United Fund (WCUF) is now accepting funding applications for its 2022 Annual Campaign. Eligible agencies include 501(c)3 organizations serving Wabash County. Organizations interested in receiving a portion of this funding for specific programs must complete and submit an application and budget summary to United Fund by noon Friday, July 1. For more

information, call 260-563-6726 or email [steve.johnson@wcunitedfund.org](mailto:steve.johnson@wcunitedfund.org).

Beacon Credit Union’s 11th annual Project Spotlight voting begins Friday, July 1

Everyone in the community, not just Beacon Credit Union members, is invited to nominate worthwhile charitable organizations, community projects and local nonprofits that they believe deserve financial support. Beginning Friday, July 1, the public can start voting for their favorite cause. Voters are allowed to vote once per day per community online or in a Member Center. Voting will end on July 31. The project in each community that receives the most votes will win \$1,000 of funding from Beacon Credit Union. The second-place winners will receive \$500 of funding, and a third-place winner will be randomly drawn to receive \$250 of funding. For more information, visit [www.beaconcu.org](http://www.beaconcu.org).

Kids Farm Trolley Tour on sale

Visit Wabash County has announced the release of a new interactive and education-focused trolley tour geared toward children. The Kids Farm Trolley Tour will take place on Saturday, July 16. This all-inclusive tour is limited to 34 people and the cost per ticket is \$25. Pick-up locations and times for this tour are 9 a.m. at the Welcome Center in Wabash and at 9:30 a.m. at the Center for History in North Manchester. The tour concludes at 12:30 p.m. The tour will make its way to the Animal Grams homestead where tour participants will interact with the animals raised for the family-owned petting zoo. From chickens to goats, mini pigs and reindeer, children will learn about what it takes to raise and care for each of the animals. The second stop on the tour is Penrod’s Dairy Farm. Trolley riders will milk a jersey cow by hand, tour a working dairy farm, and end their day with a hayride around the property. The tour includes kid-friendly refreshments from Bailey’s Pizza Parlor. Most of the tour requires walking on uneven ground. Please wear close-toed shoes or boots. The tour is rain or shine. For more information, visit [visitwabashcounty.com/trolley-tours](http://visitwabashcounty.com/trolley-tours).

32nd Annual Wabash County Festivals Scholarship Pageant set for July 22

Contestants are being sought for the 32nd Annual Wabash County Festivals Scholarship Pageant. The pageant will be held Friday, July 22, in the Ford Theater at the

Honeywell Center. On Nov. 12, the newly-crowned queen will compete in the Indiana State Festival Scholarship Pageant in Greenfield, where she will have a chance to win even more scholarship money. Anyone wishing to donate toward the scholarships may do so by sending a check to Wabash County Scholarship Pageant, 73 W. Sheridan St., Wabash, IN 46992. Please mark your check “Scholarship Pageant.” The Wabash County Festivals Pageant is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, so all donations are tax-deductible.

Local schools announce summer meal programs

Manchester Community Schools (MCS) will be serving meals this summer to those aged 18 years and younger. At Manchester Elementary School (MES), meals will be served Mondays through Thursdays through July 14, except for July 4, at 301 S. River Road, North Manchester. Breakfast will be served at MES from 7:45 to 8:15 a.m., and lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Manchester High School (MHS), lunch will be served Mondays through Thursdays through June 30. No breakfast will be served at MHS, but lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All meals must be eaten on-site each day.

MSD will be providing meals free of charge for all children ages 18 and under this summer at Metro North Elementary School (MNES). At MNES, meals will be served Mondays through Fridays through July 1. Breakfast will be served from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m., and lunch will be from 10:45 a.m. to noon. Guests should use the west door no. 14 to enter the building at 3844 W. 200 North.

Wabash City Schools (WCS) summer food program will last Mondays through Fridays through July 22 and will be closed from July 4 to 8, unless otherwise noted. Wabash Middle School (WMS) will serve breakfast from 7:45 to 9 a.m., and lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 150 Colerain St. At the South Side Fire Station, no breakfast will be served, but lunch will be served from noon to 12:30 p.m. at 1470 Vernon St. At LaFontaine United Methodist Church, no breakfast will be served, but lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays through June 29 at 2 W. Kendall St., LaFontaine. At First Friends Early Learning Ministry, no breakfast will be served, but lunch will be served from 11 to 11:30 a.m. at 110 N. Cass St. At Access Youth Center, no breakfast will be served, but supper will be served from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at 74 W. Canal St.

YMCA announces summer meal program

The Wabash County YMCA has announced meals will be served Mondays through Fridays in June

and July, except for July 4. At the Wabash County YMCA, breakfast will be served from 8 to 9 a.m., and lunch from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 500 S. Cass St. At the Wabash City Park and lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 800 W. Hill St. For more information, visit [www.wabashcountymca.org](http://www.wabashcountymca.org) or email [pgodfroy@wabashcountymca.org](mailto:pgodfroy@wabashcountymca.org).

Tickets are now on sale for Bluegrass at Hopewell

Visit Wabash County has announced the return of the Bluegrass at Hopewell live music event to take place on Saturday, July 30. Tickets may be purchased online or in person. The event offers two ticket options. Lawn and lower-level tickets can be purchased for \$20 each and guests are asked to bring their lawn chair or blanket to sit on. The ticket price includes entry into the event, Trolley No. 85 rides to and from the Antique Boutique at Hopewell and a gourmet pretzel tasting. Tables of eight on the upper level can be purchased for \$275 and include entry into the event, a gift basket with wine and drink vouchers from hosting sponsor Market Street Grill, turnovers and cookies from Bailey’s Pizza Parlor, bottled water and an invitation to the after-party at the 950 Speakeasy & Bistro in Lagro. Children age 10 and under are free but are required to have a ticket. The event will take place starting at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, July 30 at the Rustic Barn at Hopewell, 2238 N. 500 East, Urbana. This year’s event will feature live music on both upper and lower levels of the Rustic Barn at Hopewell and at the Antique Boutique at Hopewell. Along with Branded Bluegrass, other musical acts include, Brad McCord, The Rock Bottom Boys, Caleb Hawkins, Bahlers Golden Age and the return of Cornfields and Crossroads. New this year will be a bourbon tasting provided by Market Street Grill. For \$5, paid at the time of the tasting, bourbon enthusiasts will have the opportunity to select three bourbons from an extensive list and learn about what differentiates them from one another. Poole’s Meat Market will be onsite offering country-style meals and non-alcoholic beverages and Market Street Grill will offer two full-menu bars. Outside food and drinks are prohibited at the event. For more information, visit [www.visitwabashcounty.com](http://www.visitwabashcounty.com) or call 260-563-7171.

ACRES Land Trust to host the annual Summer Creek Stomp at Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run

On Aug. 13, ACRES Land Trust will host its annual Summer Creek Stomp for ACRES members at Hathaway Preserve at Ross Run, 1866 E. Baumbauer Road. Partic-

ipants will make their way through the cliffs and waterfalls at the Ross Run gorge. It’s an opportunity to splash in the creek and get a close look at the creek’s minnows, pinching crayfish and fossils. Walking in the creek is only permitted during sanctioned events in cooperation with neighbors. Hernandez said an annual ACRES Land Trust membership is \$20 per household. For more information, visit [acreslandtrust.org](http://acreslandtrust.org).

Wabash County YMCA offers free youth summer memberships thanks to a grant

The Wabash County YMCA is the recipient of a 2022 Duke Energy Foundation Grant, providing free two-month youth summer memberships. This grant gives full facility access, membership rates on programs, Honeywell Pool summer access and more. Limited memberships are available, and current members may qualify for this grant. For more information, call 260-563-9622. To learn more about the Wabash County YMCA and Wabash County YMCA job offerings, visit [www.wabashcountymca.org](http://www.wabashcountymca.org) or email [pgodfroy@wabashcountymca.org](mailto:pgodfroy@wabashcountymca.org). To make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.wabashcountymca.org/donate](http://www.wabashcountymca.org/donate) or email [jdriskill@wabashcountymca.org](mailto:jdriskill@wabashcountymca.org).

Mighty Mississinewa Triathlon set for Saturday, Sept. 10

The official Mighty Mississinewa Triathlon (MMT) will be held Saturday, Sept. 10. To register or for more information about the MMT visit <https://tinyurl.com/3fsmth54> or email [mississinewalake@dnr.in.gov](mailto:mississinewalake@dnr.in.gov). For more information, visit <https://on.IN.gov/salamoniellake> or [dnr.IN.gov](http://dnr.IN.gov).

Downtown Wabash Farmers Market returns for its 15th season

Downtown Wabash is now seeking vendors to register for the market’s 15th season. The 2022 Downtown Wabash Farmers Market will run every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon through Sept. 24 at 275 W. Market St. Vendor registration is available in drop-in, half-season and full-season schedules. Drop-in registration is \$15 per weekend. Half-season registration is \$115 for 10 weeks, from May 14 through July 16; and from July 23 through Sept. 24. Full-season registration is \$200 for 20 weeks from May 14 through Sept. 24. To register for this year’s market, visit [DowntownWabash.org/vendor](http://DowntownWabash.org/vendor), email [carly@downtownwabash.org](mailto:carly@downtownwabash.org) or call 260-563-0975.



CENTRAL INDIANA

MARKETPLACE

A Division of Central Indiana Newspaper Group

To Place Your Classified Ad Today Call...

1-800-955-7888

and press 2

CARS

HOMES

JOBS

SERVICES

MERCHANDISE

GARAGE SALES



www.CentralIndianaMarketplace.com

2000

Business & SERVICE DIRECTORY



PARK-U-LOAD

Clear the Clutter

TRASH REMOVAL

Clear the Clutter

- Clean Outs
- Remodeling Trash Removal
- Yard Waste Removal

CALL US TODAY AT 260-571-6637

Compare Medicare Supplements Plans

SAVE AS MUCH AS \$600-\$1200/yr.

for new and existing medicare supplement policy holders. New cost savings plans.

- FREE QUOTES
- NO OBLIGATION
- TRUSTED CARRIERS
- PERSONALIZED RESULTS.

(765) 472-2291

[tom@kirkinsurancegroup.com](mailto:tom@kirkinsurancegroup.com)

[www.kirkinsurancegroup.com](http://www.kirkinsurancegroup.com)

PEST CONTROL

AMERICAN PEST PROFESSIONALS INC.



- Inspect
- Detect
- Correct

Wabash & Miami Counties

#1 Pest Control Company

260-563-5899

1-800-634-5733

Free Inspections

With Estimates

[www.pestprosfamily.com](http://www.pestprosfamily.com)

Advertise your Business Here!

As low as \$99/mo.

Call Shelly for more details

765-671-2259

0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR SALE - SERVICES & MISCELLANEOUS

DISH Network. \$64.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99/mo. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR. FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-551-9764

DIRECTV Stream - Carries the Most Local MLB Games! CHOICE Package, \$89.99/mo for

0100 ANNOUNCEMENTS

12 months. Stream on 20 devices in your home at once. HBO Max included for 3 mos (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) No annual contract, no hidden fees! Some restrictions apply. Call IVS 1-844-412-9997

DIRECTV for \$79.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction

0900

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF WABASH ) SS:  
WABASH COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT  
ESTATE DOCKET: 85C01-2205-EU-000058  
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF  
JAMES RAY STEPHENS, DECEASED  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION  
In the Circuit Court of Wabash County, Indiana.  
Notice is hereby given that Jeremy Stephens and Ryan Stephens were on the 31st day of May, 2022 appointed Personal Representatives of the Estate of James Ray Stephens, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated in Wabash, Indiana this 17th day of June, 2022.  
Lori Draper  
Clerk of the Circuit Court  
69 W Hill Street  
Wabash, IN 46992  
Emily C. Guenin-Hodson, Attorney  
Guenin Law Office, P.C.  
574 South Miami Street  
Wabash, Indiana 46992  
(260) 569-7900  
HSPAXLP.06/22,06/29/2022



**0600 REAL ESTATE FOR RENT**

Marion  
CKC Cocker Spaniel Puppies  
Shots & Wormed  
Ready to Go  
Champion Line  
Can meet up  
\$800 - \$1,000  
Call or Text  
765-243-1450

0200

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

# 1000 HOME SERVICE DIRECTORY

**IN THE  
CLASSIFIEDS  
TODAY!**





Photo by Clay Maxfield / Plain Dealer

With a squad comprised of four freshmen and nine sophomores, Southwood's varsity softball season ended with a final record of 6-17.

## Southwood softball takes a step forward for the future

Their season ended with a final record of 6-17

By **CLAY MAXFIELD**  
Wabash Plain Dealer Freelance Reporter

With a squad comprised of four freshmen and nine sophomores, Southwood's varsity softball season ended with a final record of 6-17 but their improvements were across the board for a team that utilized this season as one that they could find their bearings with.

Four of the team's wins came through the Three Rivers Conference (TRC) which stood as an improvement from a year ago when they went win-less in the TRC.

Southwood head coach Carl Pace believes that they will look back on this sea-

son as a step towards a more competitive future along with more wins as well.

"I feel like we got another year of experience under our belt and it's going to prove valuable," Pace said. "We're trying to infuse younger kids with some more of your veterans and I feel like they took our only senior that we had and learned from her. ... Maybe we can take that momentum into next season and go a little further."

From an offensive standpoint, they improved their batting percentage in the span of one season while being led by Paxton Baker and Emma Evans who each batted over .410.

Baker also led the team in stolen bases with 23.

Evans is one of five seniors on Southwood's 2022 roster and sat second on the team in on-base percentage with

46 percent while Baker led with 52 percent.

For Pace, an injury early on in the year led to some shuffling with Southwood's lineup but the change that occurred was an area of growth that he hadn't foreseen would occur before the season began.

"We had a key injury early in the season so we had to figure out how to fill the holes and the gaps on our team. So, I had to put some girls in positions that maybe they weren't totally comfortable with and I think just from that, just knowing different positions and being more versatile, it's going to help us next year."

While Southwood will lose Evans on the mound for next year, they will look to build off of freshman Molly Schannep's first year outing for the team after she struck

out 42 batters throughout the season.

Schannep appeared in 19 of the team's 23 games while Evans pitched in 12.

Despite being about a month removed from their postseason exit against Lewis Cass, Pace says that his team is already eager to get back to work.

"They know that we improved and I think that they know that some talent is coming and we're going to start to put all of these pieces together and make a run at something," he said.

"They're already ready to get started. They're like 'when are the open fields?' Just their personal drive and wanting to get better and do better is encouraging."

*Clay Maxfield, Wabash Plain Dealer freelance reporter, may be reached by email at sports@wabashplaindealer.com.*

## Koepka the latest to join Saudi-backed LIV Golf series

By **DOUG FERGUSON**  
AP Golf Writer

CROMWELL, Conn. — Brooks Koepka, one of the first players to denounce a rival league for only 48 players, is the latest PGA Tour player to sign on with Saudi-funded LIV Golf series, The Associated Press has learned.

A person briefed on Koepka's decision told the AP he still would be able to compete on the PGA Tour until he hits a shot on the LIV Golf circuit. The person spoke on condition of anonymity without authorization to speak on behalf of the tour.

The Daily Telegraph in the UK first reported Koepka's decision.

It was another step — and a big name with his four major championships — that added to the roster of the LIV Golf series that invariably will lead to no space for some of the lesser-known players in the inaugural event outside London two weeks ago.

Koepka remained in the field for the Travelers Championship, though he was not at a player meeting Tuesday morning at the TPC River Highlands. The next LIV Golf event starts June 30 outside Portland, Oregon.

Koepka was the second player, behind Rory McIlroy, to speak out against a rival league in March 2020 when he told the AP, "I have a hard time believing golf should be about just 48 players."

"Money isn't going to change my life," Koepka said at the time.

The proposed rival league was different from LIV Golf, presented as the "Premier Golf League" though still relying on Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund. Greg Norman and LIV Golf took the idea of 48-man fields, no cuts with a team component.

LIV Golf has not announced Koepka's sign-

ing amid speculation that a few others were soon to join. One was Abraham Ancer of Mexico, the No. 20 in the world who won a World Golf Championship last year in a playoff, along with the Australian Open in 2018.

Ancer said his decision was not taken lightly and that joining LIV would allow him to give back to the game by helping it grow in Mexico. "I never could have imagined being in this position today," he said on Twitter.

The development came as the PGA Tour held a player meeting at the Travelers Championship, during which Commissioner Jay Monahan spoke of the tour's position and plans to reshape the season and its tournaments.

According to two players in the meeting, the PGA Tour plans to return to a calendar season that would start in January and the FedEx Cup playoffs would be eligible for only for the top 70 players. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was for players.

Currently, the top 125 make the postseason, with the top 70 advancing to the second playoff event and the top 30 to the Tour Championship. The new plan is for the top 70 at the start, then top 50 and top 30.

The fall would be used for players beyond 70th to secure cards for the following year, although research showed most inside the top 100 would be safe. The tour was still looking at three fall events for limited fields, part of eight tournaments during the year that would offer \$20 million in prize money.

LIV Golf was expected to announce as many as four new players this week. There was endless speculation during the U.S. Open involving more than a dozen names, some of whom have expressed no interest in going.

## Watson settles 20 sexual misconduct lawsuits

By **JUAN A. LOZANO**  
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson has reached an agreement to settle 20 of the 24 civil lawsuits that had been filed by women who accused him of sexual assault and harassment, an attorney for the women said Tuesday.

Watson, who has been accused by massage therapists of harassing, assaulting or touching them during appointments when he was playing for the Houston Texans, could still be suspended if the NFL determines he violated the league's personal conduct policy.

"Today I announce that all cases against Deshaun Watson, with the exception of four, have settled. We are working through the paperwork related to those settlements," Houston attorney Tony Buzbee said in a statement. "Once we have done so, those particular cases will be dismissed."

Buzbee, who represents all 24 women, said the terms of the settlements are "confidential" and that his legal team "won't comment further on the settlements or those cases."

The first 22 lawsuits were filed in March and April 2021. The last two lawsuits were filed after HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel" aired an interview last month with two of the women who detailed their encounters with Watson.

The settlement also comes after The New York Times reported earlier this month that Watson had booked massage appointments with at least 66 different women over 17 months while he played for the Texans.



Ron Schwane / AP

Cleveland Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson takes part in drills on June 14.

The report also said that a Texans representative had provided Watson with a nondisclosure agreement that he gave to some of the women to sign.

Rusty Hardin, Watson's lead attorney, did not immediately return an email or a text seeking comment.

Last week, Watson said he intended to clear his name and sidestepped any questions about whether he would settle with any of the women.

In March, two separate Texas grand juries declined to indict Watson on criminal complaints stemming from the allegations.

Cleveland then signed Watson to a fully guaranteed, five-year, \$230 million contract in March, convincing the three-time Pro Bowler to waive his no-trade clause and join a team with solid roster.

The Browns had no imme-

diate comment on the settlements.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said the settlements have "no impact on the collectively bargained disciplinary process."

And a league official told The Associated Press "settling doesn't give someone a pass" and indicated a lengthy suspension remains in order. The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the investigation hasn't concluded.

Buzbee said he plans on taking the four unsettled lawsuits to trial, including the first one that was filed by Ashley Solis, who has previously made her name public. In an interview with HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel," Solis said she felt threatened by Watson after their massage session when he told her that she had a career to protect and "I know you don't want

anyone messing with it just like I don't want anyone messing with mine."

Buzbee said that without Solis, "the conduct experienced by these women would likely have continued unfettered."

Cleveland, which has spent nearly two decades searching for a franchise quarterback, pursued and signed Watson despite his complex legal situation.

Owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam knew the Browns would face heavy criticism for the move, but they were comfortable with the decision after conducting their own investigation and meeting privately with Watson.

Now, the team is eager to know how long they might be without Watson. The Browns signed veteran backup Jacoby Brissett, who will move into the starting job if Watson is suspended.

## MLB standardizing ball rubbing and removal from humidors

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK — Major League Baseball is standardizing procedures for rubbing baseballs and their removal from humidors in an effort to establish more consistency amid complaints about slickness that followed the crackdown on sticky substances.

MLB has been working on standards over the course of the season in response to feedback from players and sent a memorandum outlining the changes on Tuesday to general managers, assistant GMs and clubhouse managers. Titled "Updates to Baseball Storage & Handling," a copy of the memo was obtained by The Associated Press.

Scrutiny of baseball preparation — a minimum 13 dozen are readied for each game — has increased in recent years. Use of a humidor, began by Colorado in 2002, expanded to Arizona in 2019, three additional teams in 2020, then a total of 10 last year and all 30 this season.

MLB is mandating a ball be stored in a humidor for at least 14 days before game use, and ball storage must be recorded by the home team's game-day compliance monitor and

then certified in a signed form by the clubhouse manager.

The memo followed review of video of each team's rubbing procedures.

MLB is instructing that "each club staff member involved in the process should apply mud in a uniform manner ensuring the same mud-to-water ratio is applied to each ball. Rubbing mud should be applied to each baseball for at least 30 seconds, ensuring that mud is rubbed thoroughly and consistently into the entire leather surface of the ball."

After rubbing, balls are to be put back in Rawlings boxes, with dividers between each, and returned to the humidor until the home team's game-day compliance monitors gets them for game use. In an effort to reduce time in ball bags, balls are to be taken from the humidor 15-30 minutes before the scheduled start, and then no more than 96 balls at a time.

When needed, up to 96 more balls may be taken from the humidor, and they should not be mixed in bags with balls from the earlier bunch. A bag must be cleaned with a damp cloth and then a dry cloth before it is used "to make sure there is no excess residue, dust or moisture."